S/N 10/042,823   Response to Office Action Dated 12 November 2006

In the Claims

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of printing according to a selectable print mode comprising:

selecting between a dark dot gain print mode and an object definition print mode, wherein the print modes produce different output, such that the dark dot gain print mode enhances photographic image quality and the object definition print mode enhances object edge definition;

wherein printing in the dark dot gain print mode comprises:

applying at least one dark color ink to a dry portion of a print media; and

applying at least one light color ink to said portion of said print media that is still wet following said application of said at least one dark color ink; and

wherein printing in the object definition print mode comprises:

applying at least one light color ink to a dry portion of the print media; and

applying at least one dark color ink to said portion of said print media that is still wet from the application of said at least one light color ink.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one dark color ink has more colorant than said at least one light color ink.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

said at least one dark color ink is selected from a group of color inks comprising Black (K) ink, dark Magenta (M) ink, and dark Cyan (C) ink; and

said at least one light color ink is selected from a group of color inks comprising Yellow (Y) ink, light magenta (m) ink, and light cyan (c) ink.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

selecting between said at least two print modes is based on content to be printed on said print media.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

selecting between said the print modes is based in part on a parameter associated with the inks.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

selecting between the print modes is based in part on a parameter associated with the print media.

7.   (Previously Presented) An adaptable print mode method for use in a color ink jet printer, the adaptable print mode method comprising:

selecting between at least two print modes comprising a dark dot gain print mode and an object definition print mode, wherein the print modes produce different output, such that the dark dot gain print mode enhances photographic image quality and the object definition print mode enhances object edge definition, and wherein:

said dark dot gain print mode is configured to cause at least one dark color ink to be selectively applied to a dry portion of a print media, and thereafter at least one light color ink to be selectively applied to said portion of said print media while still wet from said application of said at least one dark color ink, and

said object definition print mode is configured to cause said at least one light color ink to be selectively applied to said dry portion of said print media, and thereafter said at least one dark color ink to be selectively applied to said portion of said print media while still wet from said application of said at least one light color ink.

8.   (Previously Presented) The adaptable print mode method as recited in Claim 7, wherein selecting between said at least two print modes is based on content to be printed on said print media.

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9.   (Previously Presented) The adaptable print mode method as recited in Claim 7, wherein selecting between said at least two print modes is based on at least one parameter associated with said inks.

10.   (Previously Presented) The adaptable print mode method as recited in Claim 7, wherein selecting between said at least two print modes is based on at least one parameter associated with said print media.

11.   (Original) The adaptable print mode method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said at least one dark color ink has more colorant than said at least one light color ink.

12.   (Original) The adaptable print mode method as recited in Claim 7, wherein:

said at least one dark color ink is selected from a group of color inks comprising Black (K) ink, dark Magenta (M) ink, and dark Cyan (C) ink; and

said at least one light color ink is selected from a group of color inks comprising Yellow (Y) ink, light magenta (m) ink, and light cyan (c) ink.

13.   (Cancel)

14.   (Cancel)

15.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein an amount of dark color ink is greater than an amount of light color ink.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein an amount of light color ink is greater than an amount of dark color ink.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein selecting between the print modes comprises distinguishing photos and graphics.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein selecting between print modes is based in part on identifying a type of an area to be printed.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 7, further comprising:

building a print map based on a selected print mode.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 19, further comprising:

applying ink according to the print map.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 7, further comprising:

building a print map based on the selecting between the dark dot gain mode and the object definition mode.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising:

sequentially applying ink based on the print map.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein a multi-pass printing process is used.

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24.   (Previously Presented) A printing device comprising:

an ink-jet printing mechanism configurable to selectively apply at least two different color inks to a print media; and

logic operatively coupled to said ink-jet printing mechanism and configured to select between at least two print modes comprising a dark dot gain print mode and an object definition print mode, wherein the print modes produce different output, such that the dark dot gain print mode enhances photographic image quality and the object definition print mode enhances object edge definition, and wherein:

in said dark dot gain print mode, said logic causes said ink-jet printing mechanism to selectively apply at least one dark color ink to a dry portion of said print media, and only thereafter apply at least one light color ink to said portion of said print media while still wet with said at least one dark color ink, and

in said object definition print mode, said logic causes said ink-jet printing mechanism to selectively apply at least one light color ink to said dry portion of said print media, and only thereafter apply at least one dark color ink to said portion of said print media while still wet with said at least one light color ink.

25.   (Original) The printing device as recited in Claim 24, wherein said logic selects between said at least two print modes based on content to be printed on said print media.

26.   (Original) The printing device as recited in Claim 24, wherein said logic selects between said at least two print modes based on at least one parameter associated with said inks.

27.   (Original) The printing device as recited in Claim 24, wherein said logic selects between said at least two print modes based on at least one parameter associated with said print media.

28.   (Original) The printing device as recited in Claim 24, wherein said at least one dark color ink has a greater amount of colorant than said at least one light color ink.

29.   (Original) The printing device as recited in Claim 24, wherein:

said at least one dark color ink is selected from a group of color inks comprising Black (K) ink, dark Magenta (M) ink, and dark Cyan (C) ink; and

said at least one light color ink is selected from a group of color inks comprising Yellow (Y) ink, light magenta (m) ink, and light cyan (c) ink.

30.   (Cancel)

31.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein said logic is further operatively configurable to access source file data defining at least one object to be printed on said print media using different inks.

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32.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein the dark color ink has less colorant than the light color ink.

33.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein the dark color ink has more colorant than the light color ink.

34.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein said print mode defines when, during at least two different printing passes, each ink is to be applied to an applicable portion of said print media.

35.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 34, wherein said applicable portion is defined to include a photograph.

36.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein said logic is further configurable to operatively identify a type of area to be printed.

37.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein said logic is further configurable to operatively identify types of inks and media.

38.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein said logic is further configurable to establish print map data defining said printing sequence.

39.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 38, further comprising:

a printing mechanism operatively coupled to said logic and configurable to deliver ink to said print media according to said print map data.

40.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 39, wherein said printing mechanism applies ink based on said print map data.

41.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein said logic is operatively configurable within a printing device.

42.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein said logic is operatively configurable within a computer device.

43.   (Cancel)

44.   (Original) A method for use in a printing device, the method comprising:

determining dot gain requirements; and

selectively altering an ink application order based on said determined dot gain requirements.

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